

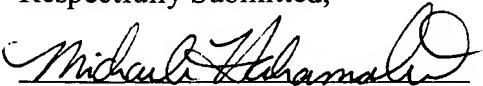
REMARKS

The above claim amendments are submitted along with the following remarks to be fully responsive to the outstanding Final Office Action mailed January 11, 2005. It is further submitted that this response is timely filed within the shortened statutory period. Reconsideration of all outstanding grounds of objection and rejection and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

By this amendment, rejected claims 1-17 have been canceled, leaving claim 18 pending, which the Examiner indicated to be allowed in the final office action dated January 11, 2005. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is hereby rendered moot. In addition, claims 19-23 have been added as depending from allowed independent claim 18. Support for these additional claims can be found in paragraphs [0081] and [0082] of the specification as originally filed. In particular, paragraph [0081] provides support for the inclusion of at least three protrusions on the end portions (claim 22), and for the protrusions of the end portion having a height of about 0.040 inches (claim 23), while paragraph [0082] provides support for a particular width, height, and length of the side bars (claims 19-21, respectively). Thus, no new matter is added, and the subject matter of these dependent claims should not require further consideration and/or search. Further, the present amendment presents 5 additional claims while canceling a greater number of finally rejected claims, since 17 claims are canceled by the present amendment.

Accordingly, it is submitted that presently pending claims 18-23 are currently in condition for allowance, a notice of which is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

Dated: 3/9/05

Respectfully Submitted,
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